

Organize—Organize!

We desire to ask, What is being done by the Conservatives in this portion of the State towards organizing for the approaching election? In less than a month the white men of North Carolina, not disfranchised by Congress, will be called upon to decide the most important issues ever placed before a people. And to do so successfully and safely, they must overcome the votes of seventy thousand ignorant and prejudiced negroes, led on by the most worthless and abandoned political freebooters and adventurers with which a community was ever cursed. It may be thought that the work before us is insurmountable. It is difficult, and therefore calls for the most strenuous efforts. Organization and action—determination and courage can, and will, accomplish it. The whites have already arrays of thirty thousand majority, which another registration, required under the act of Congress, will increase to forty or fifty thousand, if we but do our duty. In Alabama, where the negroes have a majority of upwards of twenty thousand, and acted as untidily under as disreputable and disgraceful leaders as with us, and where money was used without stint to carry the election, the Radicals have been largely defeated by the thorough and complete organization of the whites. It will be so with us. It requires but the arousing of our people to the real merits and dangers of the issues in order to secure a full and united white vote against the evil and dangerous machinations of the men who are desiring to upturn and ruin the political and social welfare of the State.

But to accomplish this desirable end it is necessary for us to work, work, work, and our labors, as is our aim, must be in unison. The Conservative Convention, which was recently in session in Raleigh, adopted a Plan of Organization which gives us a common and efficient system for our adoption, and we now entreat our friends everywhere to perfect their county organizations under it, and thus secure success. It is to this plan of county organization to which we desire to call particular attention. The plan adopted by the Convention is as follows:

It is recommended that each County, by popular meetings or through the medium of existing organizations, appoint a County Committee, consisting of at least two persons from each Captain's District within its limits. The County Committee shall take charge of all matters relating to local organization, and within the County, and is requested to make monthly reports to the Chairman of the District Committee, who will, in turn, report to the State Convention. The County Committee shall also be charged with the duty of enrolling the names of all persons who are entitled to vote, and of such local matters as may require the attention of the District Committee.

It is further recommended that each County Committee cause to be enrolled the names of all the registered voters of their county, who are willing to act and vote with this organization, and also, that they cause to be enrolled on a separate list the names of all those who are entitled to register but who have not done so, and that they use every exertion to secure their registration and active co-operation.

Resolved, That the President of the Convention appoint five or more persons, in each County, to make a thorough canvass of the same, and disseminate proper political information. This Convention met to little purpose if its wise recommendations are not followed. Even if we do not entirely approve of them, it will be fatal to us to divide upon minor issues. We must make a "long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether," if our labors are to have a practical force. Let us, therefore, immediately perfect our county organizations under this plan. Let us at once appoint our County Committees, and take action to cause all the white registered voters within our respective counties, who are not ashamed of their color and not afraid to acknowledge it, to be enrolled, and to collect the names of those entitled to register, but who have not done so, in order to prevail upon them to do so when the opportunity is afforded, which will be before they are called upon to vote. If this organization is perfected, and the people aroused by a thorough canvass, North Carolina will be saved from a fate worse than that which ever befell a State. But unless we do organize and work we will drift into the slough of Radicalism and be lost in the fifth and corruption of that political cesspool. If we are averted by the fear of confusion, military tribunals and military prisons, where *habeas corpus* never enters, we will hug to our embrace a fate far worse. Our property will be taxed by negro legislators to educate negro children and to pay negro office-holders, and the title to it will be adjudicated by negro juries. Negro policemen and civil officers will arrest, and negro magistrates will try, us. The sacredness of life and liberty will be tried before judges and juries compared to which the military tribunals will indeed be the abodes of justice and equity.

Again we urge our people to organize with a determination to succeed. We cannot afford defeat. Let us but get to work and we will, we must, be victorious.

Admission of Alabama.

The latest news from Washington City is to the effect that if Senator SHERMAN's bill for the admission of Alabama passes it will not do so by a strict party vote. Several Radical Senators are outspoken in opposition to the proposed law, and General BURNETT says he will oppose the bill if it shall ever reach the House.

Evidently the result in Alabama was so unexpected that it has thrown the Radicals into confusion and alarm. The Central Committee had freely expended enormous amounts of money at the call of their agents in that State to carry this initiative election in the grand Congressional scheme of Reconstruction, and the assurance had been confidently given by those who received the money and used it, that the Constitution would be adopted by a large vote. So unexpected has been its defeat that the leaders have been so taken back that they have hardly yet recovered from their surprise.

They have the same power to vote the State of Alabama in, as they have exercised to keep her out for the last three years, but act as they may, the moral force of their legislation, if these seeming hopes left to a portion of the white people ever had anything of morality or equity in it, is lost, and

Senator SHERMAN's bill is a candid admission of the failure of Radical statesmanship after three years of uninterrupted trial and experience. Possibly the people may yet learn to distrust such unworthy and incompetent servants, and, at the ballot-box, order them to be deprived of the trust with which they have been confided, to be bestowed upon those more faithful and competent.

Registration.

We have frequently been asked by those who have heretofore neglected to register for one cause and another, how that right can now be exercised. We are glad to know that there does exist interest in this matter. While there are but few negroes unregistered in the State, and many fraudulently so, there are thousands of white men entirely competent, under the Reconstruction acts, who have not registered.

In the Plan of Organization adopted by the Conservative Convention, one of the duties desired of county committees was to ascertain, as far as possible, all such as have not availed themselves of the privilege, and induce them to register. And this is a most important matter. We have no doubt that there are enough white men in the State, in all respects eligible under the acts of Congress, whose names are not on the registration lists, to hold a balance of power between the whites and the negroes and their ignoble confederates, and upon their action will doubtless hang the result in the State.

There will be no excuse for these men failing to enroll their names before the election, for it is made imperative upon the Boards of Registration to revise their lists and permit the registration of such as have not heretofore done so. Section seventh of the final Supplementary Reconstruction Act reads as follows:

And be it further enacted, That the time for completing the original registration provided for in said act may, in the discretion of the board of registration, be extended to the last day of October, 1867; and the boards of registration shall have power, and it shall be their duty, commencing fourteen days previous to any election under said act, and upon reasonable public notice of the time and place thereof, to revise for a period of three days the registration lists; and upon any such revision, to strike the names of all persons who at that time have been registered, to strike the names of such persons from the list. And such board shall also, during the same period, add to such registration the names of all persons who at that time possess the qualifications required by said act who have not been already registered, and no person shall at any time be entitled to be registered or to vote by reason of any executive pardon or amnesty for any act or thing which, without such pardon or amnesty, would disqualify him from registration or voting.

It will thus be seen that fourteen days prior to any election under the Reconstruction Act, the registration lists must be open for revision for the space of three days. As due notice of the time and place will be given, every qualified person will have ample opportunity for entering his name upon the registry lists.

We hardly deem it necessary to urge upon our citizens the overpowering necessity of performing this duty. Thousands of your fellow-citizens have been disfranchised and are denied a voice in questions which affect their property and their lives for no other fault than for performing their duty faithfully in civil and military positions to which your partiality and the necessities of the State called them. Tens of thousands of ignorant and debased negroes have been armed with the ballot to work out the political and social ruin of this section. Hundreds of ignoble adventurers from the North, and knavish politicians at home, are using these enfranchised blacks for their own advancement and the certain destruction of the country. It rests with the white men of North Carolina, not disfranchised, to check the downward progress of affairs. They must meet it, and that boldly too. Do not think to avoid the responsibilities of defeat by failing to register. The consequences of such a course must bring a failure, which will overwhelm as well the non-actor as the active participant. There can be no half-way ground. North Carolina and the other Southern States must be controlled by white men or by negroes, and he who does not actively co-operate with his own race or color in the struggle must stand or fall with that of the negro. The issue is too important, the stakes too high, failure too fatal, to bear with negative friends. He who is not with us is against us.

Dissemination.

We direct attention to that portion of the proceedings of the Convention, so-called, published elsewhere, in which Mr. DUBREAU proposed an additional clause to the Bill of Rights, prohibiting intermarriage between the white and black races. It will be seen that he could not even get a vote upon it, but through the ignorance or knavery of the President, it was filibustered on the table. White men were too afraid of their party to vote for the proposition, while a little spark of manhood yet lingering in their breasts made them unwilling to place upon "de archives of gravity" their opposition to it. The subterfuge will avail them nothing. Like Nessus shirt, the iniquities of negro equality will stick to them, and these men will yet be compelled to seek the companionship of negroes, being avoided by all respectable white men.

This action of the Convention, in connection with the refusal to permit Mr. DUBREAU the use of the Hall of the House of Commons, to read for the benefit of the poor of Raleigh, because the Young Men's Christian Association, under whose auspices he was acting, would not permit the indiscriminate association of whites and blacks, in which movement General ABBOTT signified his devotion to the negroes, whose representative he undoubtedly is, calls for the earnest consideration of our people. How far will this fanaticism go? Whether does it lead to? Where must be its end? In the name of high Heaven, are these men mad? or do they act from the impulses of wicked hearts and ignoble natures?

White men of North Carolina! we beseech you to heed these things and be warned in time. Every right which we value; every association which we hold sacred, appeals to us for succor. Upon our efforts rest the hopes of future prosperity and peace; upon our defeat comes political ruin and social and moral corruption.

How the President Talks.

"Mac," the clever Washington correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial, had another "talk" with the President on the 10th instant, and as it is exceedingly interesting and comes from one who is understood to be an accepted visitor at the White House, and with a correct and impartial reporter, we give it to the exclusion of other matter, as follows:

IMPEACHMENT.

"They're after you again, Mr. President, with an impeachment," said I.

"So I hear," he said, "but I can't get at the point they're trying to make against me this time; though, for that matter, I haven't taken much trouble to find out."

I explained to him then what I understood to be the charges under consideration in the Reconstruction committee—First, his order to General Grant not to regard Stanton's orders unless he knew of them; secondly, his order to Stanton, that he came from the Executive, and second, that was termed a conspiracy on his part to resist the execution of the Tenure of Office act, by arranging with General Grant that he (Grant) should resign the Secretaryship *ad interim* of the War Department in time for him (Johnson) to put in some man who would refuse to resign; and third, to order the validity of the Tenure of Office act before the Supreme Court.

"Is that all?" said the President.

"Yes, sir; and I understand that Bingham and other Republicans on the committee think it quite enough to turn you out of office."

"Well, now," said the President, "as to the order about Stanton, I didn't suppose there was a man in Congress who is not aware that I have a perfect right to do what that order directs, without making any order at all. Mr. Stanton's orders are of no more force than yours, except upon the presumption that they come from me, and I have a perfect right to communicate with General Grant direct, without availing myself of Mr. Stanton, who in such matters is a mere clerk for the transmission of orders. As to the charge of conspiracy, it only shows how badly they are off for something to quarrel about. In the first place if I wanted to do what they make out to be a conspiracy, I could have done it without a conspiracy with Grant as Secretary *ad interim* in time to have put in some man who would tell the law. And if I had taken such a course there would be no crime about it, unless it be a crime to appeal to a remedy provided by the constitution for the settlement of disputes between the legislative and executive branches of the government. What else is the Supreme Court for but the settlement of controversies? And has the executive no rights, and no opinions; nothing but blind obedience to the legislative department? If such was the intention of the framers of the government, they wouldn't have created a Supreme Court, for it could be of no use. But it was intended as the final arbiter in all such controversies, and when it determines a question, its decision is binding as much as the constitution itself."

"Do they seem to be very rabid about impeachment this time—worse than they were before?" inquired the President.

"I think they are, but I don't think so much as it was," I replied. "They are getting desperate, and they want to put you out, so as to put Ben Wade in and get control of the Federal patronage for the next Presidential election. Besides, may be they want to disqualify you as a candidate against them, for Boutwell and others among their say you will be a stronger candidate than it was," I replied. "They are getting desperate, and they want to put you out, so as to put Ben Wade in and get control of the Federal patronage for the next Presidential election. Besides, may be they want to disqualify you as a candidate against them, for Boutwell and others among their say you will be a stronger candidate than it was," I replied. "They are getting desperate, and they want to put you out, so as to put Ben Wade in and get control of the Federal patronage for the next Presidential election. 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and the Constitution of the State of North Carolina.

Section 29 was adopted, making the time for holding elections the first Thursday in August.

Mr. Rodman moved, as an amendment, the following addition, which was carried: "But the General Assembly, when called to the time of holding elections, shall be taken on the day after the vote shall be taken on the adoption of this Constitution by the voters of the State, and the General Assembly, then elected, shall meet on the 30th day after the approval thereof by the Congress of the United States, if it fall not on a Sunday; that if it should so fall, then on the day after. And the members then elected shall hold their seats until their successors are elected at a regular election."

On motion, the House then adjourned.

Friday, Feb. 14, 1868.

The Convention was called to order at 10 o'clock.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. May, of the Convention.

A communication from the Freedmen's Bureau ("Head Centre") was received in reply to a resolution, thanks tendered to him by the Convention, for the efficient manner in which he had performed his duties.

Also General Order from District Headquarters, enforcing the tax ordinance of the Convention.

Mr. Jones, of Washington, presented a petition for divorce from Charles Overton (Terra).

Mr. McDonald, of Chatham, an ordinance relieving the fine of \$1,000 imposed upon H. B. Gutierrez, for failure to collect taxes in Orange. Referred.

Mr. Abbott, an ordinance designating the Raleigh National Bank as the depository for the State Funds. Referred.

Mr. Congleton, a resolution abolishing the State Senate. Referred.

Mr. McDonald, of Chatham, an ordinance making all contracts and debts made prior to May 1865, null and void. Referred.

Mr. Rose, a resolution affecting debts and contracts made prior to May, 1865. Referred.

CALENDAR.

Mr. Welker called up his ordinance prohibiting the distillation of grain, and moved that the ordinance be amended so as to provide that it go into effect immediately after passage. Adopted.

Mr. McCubbin moved to strike out "June" and insert "January 1st, 1869, in the third line.

Mr. McDonald, of Chatham, moved the indefinite postponement of the subject.

This action created a good deal of discussion. Some thought such a prohibition would injure the chances of the Constitution before the people. Others thought differently, and, pending the discussion, the Chair announced the

SPECIAL ORDER.

Mr. The report of the committee on Preamble and Bill of Rights.

The question being upon the second section, Mr. Heaton moved its adoption. Carried.

Section third was adopted without debate.

Mr. Heaton asked the Secretary to read sections four and five in conjunction, as he wished to make some remarks upon the doctrines contained in them.

The sections were read, when

Mr. H. said that the important and vital questions involved should receive a most careful consideration at the hands of this convention. They involved the greatest issues that have ever agitated the minds of the American people. Let us, in the Constitution which we are now about to frame settle forever, so far as the people of this State are concerned, that the odious doctrine of State sovereignty was incompatible with the true meaning and intent of the Constitution framed by the fathers of the country, ratified by the voice of the people and venerated and beloved on account of the principles of liberty which it inculcates. Let us now provide the indisputable fact that the Constitution of the United States, which is the law of the land, and next to our God, we should recognize it as the true law to which our allegiance is due. The framers of our Constitution never contemplated for an instant that the standard of State sovereignty, which is, in fact, the essence of secession, would be set up. We owe a debt of gratitude to each generation of Americans, men like Webster, Clay and Jackson, who, in their day and generation, labored to impress upon the minds of the American people, that a reverence for the Constitution, and an immortal love for the Union, were the safeguards of liberty and prosperity. It was on account of such teachings that the Government was enabled to put down the most gigantic rebellion that ever raised its bloody head.

Mr. H. alluded to the debate in Congress between Mr. Hayne and Mr. Webster in regard to that doctrine, and he (Mr. H.) only reiterated the opinion of the whole country at that time, when he said that Mr. Webster had conclusively shown the fallacy of that doctrine. Mr. Calhoun, the political luminary of the South, in reference to that debate, intimated that had he stood in Mr. Hayne's place, the case would have been different, but sometime afterwards, Mr. Webster again returned in an invincible position, and the whole country universally agreed with Mr. Webster's victory. Mr. H. reverted to the election of Abraham Lincoln—his speech at his inauguration, wherein he portrayed the dreadful effects of commencing a civil war to dissolve this Union.

Mr. H. also quoted some extracts from the speech of Hon. A. H. Stephens, to the Secession Convention of Georgia, warning them to pause before taking such a step.

Mr. H. said that he had no wish to assail the memories of men who had been whirled into this rebellion; the young men's minds of the section had been thoroughly impregnated with the doctrine of secession, and the teachers handed down from the political schools of Calhoun and Yancey.

They had fought bravely and manfully, but, thank God, the Government had enough disciples of the Clay, Webster and Jackson school to rush to its rescue and strike down the rebellious band and restore the government of our fathers.

In regard to the 6th section, which declares against repudiation, Mr. H. said he would oppose every attempt at such a thing as repudiation. He would never support any measure that tended to violate any honest obligation, in debt, contracted before the war or since. The State should not take a high and honorable stand, and declare to the world, that Congress is wrong, and we will never violate our plighted faith and tarnish our honor, by repudiating legal and honest debts. The moment we strike at the public and private faith, then our condition becomes truly deplorable, &c.

Mr. H. concluded roughly upon Mr. Tourgee's ideas of the new and the old State, and "rose high" and said that if we recognized the principle that the new State, which goes into existence when the Constitution that we are framing is ratified by the people and approved by Congress, is the State for all the obligations of the old State, we at once admit the fact that we are unconstitutional. This is only a conquered province. The Congress had treated it as other conquered provinces that they have conquered. A new government had been given. Military Commanders had been placed over the various districts. At the end of the war, the State lost every particle of its existence as a State, and degenerated into a conquered province, and, therefore, the

new State is not liable for a cent of the debt of the defunct State.

The new State, which we are creating, has no faith pledged, no debt, and cannot assume that of a State that has ceased to exist. We can have only such debts, such obligations, as we may in future contract.

Half of the citizens of the new State were strangers to the old, and yet we are asked to shoulder the debt of a defunct State! It was simply encouraging treason. Northern Copperheads loaned money to Southern traitors to carry on the war because they saw a chance to make grand speculations. Wall Street in 1861 checked the rebellion—not in 30 days, but in 90 days—not in 6 months, but in twenty minutes; but now they saw a chance to buy bonds of this section of the country far below their par value, and, looking forward to the time when Uncle Sam would, in his might and strength, put down the rebellion, they saw a chance to this impoverished country and saw folk over the principal and accrued interest.

Mr. T. continued in the same strain for some time—in sum and substance advocating the utter repudiation of all debts contracted before, during and after the war.

Harris (negro), of Wake, was exceedingly amazed at the resolution, and he asked George. It was a conglomeration of empty sounds. He (Harris, negro) was opposed to anything tending to repudiating honest debts.

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Mr. Heaton, of Ohio, via Craven, hoped that the amendments attached would not interfere with the ordinance. The House accepted the report of the committee, the vote was taken, and the ordinance adopted as reported by the committee.

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Mr. Tourgee invokes the Muse: "Harp of the North," etc., etc., and thus discourseth:

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In regard to the 6th section, which declares against repudiation, Mr. H. said he would oppose every attempt at such a thing as repudiation. He would never support any measure that tended to violate any honest obligation, in debt, contracted before the war or since. The State should not take a high and honorable stand, and declare to the world, that Congress is wrong, and we will never violate our plighted faith and tarnish our honor, by repudiating legal and honest debts. The moment we strike at the public and private faith, then our condition becomes truly deplorable, &c.

Mr. H. concluded roughly upon Mr. Tourgee's ideas of the new and the old State, and "rose high" and said that if we recognized the principle that the new State, which goes into existence when the Constitution that we are framing is ratified by the people and approved by Congress, is the State for all the obligations of the old State, we at once admit the fact that we are unconstitutional. This is only a conquered province. The Congress had treated it as other conquered provinces that they have conquered. A new government had been given. Military Commanders had been placed over the various districts. At the end of the war, the State lost every particle of its existence as a State, and degenerated into a conquered province, and, therefore, the

new State is not liable for a cent of the debt of the defunct State.

The new State, which we are creating, has no faith pledged, no debt, and cannot assume that of a State that has ceased to exist. We can have only such debts, such obligations, as we may in future contract.

Half of the citizens of the new State were strangers to the old, and yet we are asked to shoulder the debt of a defunct State! It was simply encouraging treason. Northern Copperheads loaned money to Southern traitors to carry on the war because they saw a chance to make grand speculations. Wall Street in 1861 checked the rebellion—not in 30 days, but in 90 days—not in 6 months, but in twenty minutes; but now they saw a chance to buy bonds of this section of the country far below their par value, and, looking forward to the time when Uncle Sam would, in his might and strength, put down the rebellion, they saw a chance to this impoverished country and saw folk over the principal and accrued interest.

Mr. T. continued in the same strain for some time—in sum and substance advocating the utter repudiation of all debts contracted before, during and after the war.

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Mr. Heaton, of Ohio, via Craven, hoped that the amendments attached would not interfere with the ordinance. The House accepted the report of the committee, the vote was taken, and the ordinance adopted as reported by the committee.

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Section third was adopted without debate.

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ion as to when the Convention would adjourn.

Just as the Pacha Canby gives the order, Mr. F. moved to suspend the rules and adopt the resolution, which motion not prevailing, the resolution lies over.

CALENDAR.

The ordinance of Mr. Welker [another pious, penitent Amintahab Sleek], prohibiting the distillation of grain, was taken up. The vote on this motion was taken and resulted, yeas 26, nays 21—not a quorum voting.

Rich moved for a call of the house, and the Secretary—one Bryner, formerly a "bummer" in Sherman's army, and lately a counter-jumper of Fayetteville—proceeded to so call.

A quorum being found present, Mr. Rich then moved to lay the whole subject on the table, and demanded the yeas and nays, which resulted, yeas 20, nays 25.

Mr. Colgrove moved to amend by inserting "November, 1868," for "January, 1869." Adopted.

The question then recurred upon the passage of the ordinance as amended, which was carried.

The Tourgee submitted a report from the Committee on Towns, Cities, &c.

Mr. Sweet, an ordinance appointing a collector of taxes for the city of Newbern, and recommended its passage.

The ordinance was so amended as to allow any qualified voter of the said city to hold the office of said collector.

Mr. Sweet asked that the ordinance be immediately considered. He objected to the amendments reported by the committee.

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